

Missionary Prayer Bulletin



June 2017

NORTH AMERICA

◆ Jamaica

Little London—Richard Craig & Randy Gunnings

For the past three years the people in the Jamaican work have been praying that the Lord would either send them financial help towards fixing their mission bus or that they would be able to get a new one. They would like to thank Mrs. Hyacinth Robinson-Powell and her husband, Clifton Robinson, of the Toronto congregation for their contribution towards the repairing of the mission bus. The bus is now back on the road and it seems to be in good shape so far.

Richard Craig has applied to Geneva Reformed Seminary. He says, "I am therefore asking for your help in prayer that the Lord will show me, teach me, and lead me in His perfect path of life. I have no doubt that it is the Lord's will for me to proclaim His Word to His people and for those who are outside of the Saviour."

Please remember to pray for the congregation in Little London, that God will work in salvation and build up the church for the glory of Jesus Christ.

◆ Mexico

Mexico City—Jason & Danielle Boyle

Jason and Danielle are grateful for all who have been faithful in praying for them. Lately they have seen spiritual growth in the body of Christ. They praise the Lord that they will be having five (possibly more) baptisms this summer. A couple of the ones to be baptized are young people.

The Boyles thank God for giving the church a good number of youth. Please pray much for the young people as they are going through a lot of changes in their lives—finishing high school, starting college, starting to work, seeking godly partners. Jason will be starting a five-week series on relationships

at the beginning of June. He says, "We see in [the young people] a true desire to learn and do things right, although some need salvation. We want to focus our efforts and prayers on them, since they are the future of the church."

Please pray for men to be well trained and spiritually mature enough to take positions of leadership in the church. The work is slowly but surely getting to that point. For about four months now, two men have been alternating with Jason in leading the service on Sunday mornings. This has been good practice for the men and they are starting to get used to it.

Pray especially for a single mother in the church who is struggling to make God-honoring decisions. Please pray that God would give her great grace to walk in obedience to His Word and that through her trial she would grow spiritually.

Please pray that they would have new visitors to the church. They would love to be able to reach more people and have the needy come through their doors. Please also pray for the vacation Bible school at the end of July. This is their fifth VBS. Many in the church will be participating, taking larger roles and having greater responsibilities. Pray that all goes well and that they would reach children who have not come in past years.

Cordoba, Veracruz—Lalo & Liz Peña

Three weeks ago the church in Cordoba celebrated its third anniversary. Lalo says they are very thankful for the Lord's faithfulness, love, and grace. The church recently had its first baptismal service with three believers being baptized: Keila (13), Luis Gerardo (16), and Faustino (65). Please pray for Luis Gerardo, who has a problem with renal insufficiency.

In his last report, Lalo mentioned that some new families were attending the church services. Sadly, some of them have left since then. He says, however, "We have seen how the remaining brethren are growing in grace and knowledge of the Lord."

Lalo requests prayer for Mexico and for their city and state. There are great problems

with security and financial matters, but the Peñas and the people in the church are seeing the Lord's care and providence in all these things. Please pray for Lalo and his family, that the Lord will help him with his job as an accountant and enable him to be faithful in ministry and in preaching of the Word.

Orizaba—Marcus & Jennifer Reyes

Marcus says with summer arriving soon that means it is vacation Bible school time. Since most of their churches are newer church plants, most of their VBS activity tends to be evangelistic with the hope that they will be able to meet the children's parents. Please pray for their activities as they seek to share the gospel with young and old. They will be involved in VBS projects in three different churches.

Marcus says that the youth camp he, Jason Boyle, and Lalo Peña recently worked on together was a great success. It proved to be a great encouragement to many young people. The young indigenous Nahuatl believers were very encouraged and it has strengthened their faith. Please continue to pray for the Nahuatl believers as they have been facing many new struggles that have challenged their unity and their commitment to church attendance.

EUROPE

◆ Spain

Beas de Segura—Lyle & Heather Boyd

Lyle Boyd would like to thank you for your continued prayers for the work in southeastern Spain. He has been encouraged of late with the help of a new pastor who came to the area last September. They have been able to do evangelism together, which has been of mutual encouragement. A lady in this pastor's village has professed faith of late and is rejoicing in the Lord. This has been a tremendous source of encouragement to him amidst spiritual dearth.

Continue to pray for the book table in the market. Many people come to the area in the summer months presenting more opportunities to share the gospel.

Lyle continues to see Emilio each Tuesday in the Cortijos Nuevos market and the latter's interest in the Word of God has steadily increased. Please pray for a policeman in Cortijos Nuevos who had a nasty fall and who is presently not working. After years of complete indifference and obvious opposition to the gospel, there seems to be a softening of his heart and he has accepted literature. Pray that the seed will bring lasting fruit for God's glory.

The new pastor Lyle mentioned above hopes to start a book table in the town of Castellar, where there has never been a church or other witness that they know of. Pray with them that an opening will arise and that God would bless the seed sown there.

Please continue to pray for the radio ministry and for the unsaved who attend the services. Pray also for believers who are passing through times of trial.

Madrid—John & Noranna Hanna

The Hannas report that the Alcorcón church reached another milestone in May when it commenced a church plant in the city of Toledo, a little over 70 kilometers (40 miles) due south of Madrid. The Alcorcón church has been praying for more than ten years towards this step. During this time, they have holding been a Friday night Bible study and prayer time. On May 21 they commenced two services in Toledo on the Lord's Day. There were many visitors for the first services, but the following Sabbath showed the present reality.

Please pray fervently for this new work, that souls will be saved and believers will be built up in the faith. Two elders (Santiago and Jonathan), along with Pastor Mark Witte, have been nominated by the Alcorcón session to oversee the new work. John Hanna says he has been asked by Mark to work along with him. So in order to facilitate both places, John plans to preach in both locations each Sabbath. He is excited about this new opportunity to serve the Lord, although he is supposedly "semi-retired."

The work in Alcorcón continues to know the Lord's blessing. Each Lord's Day there are visitors, some unsaved. Please continue to pray specifically for the unsaved who attend regularly: Miriam, Antonia, and Angel. John is concerned for some of the youth of the congregation. He tries to spend more time with them and is concerned that some are still unsaved, though they have been in

the church for most of their lives. Pray that they will experience the power of the gospel in their hearts. Pray too for the parents of young families, that the Lord will give them wisdom to teach and nurture their children in the gospel.

ASIA

◆ Nepal

Kathmandu—Wesley & Carol Graham

The Grahams have just returned home to Northern Ireland after two months in Nepal. The annual conference was held while they were there, at which Rev. Gordon Ferguson preached on the Song of Solomon and Ephesians. The meetings were greatly appreciated by those who attended. There were also two graduations for the Bible college, one for the men and the other for the ladies. Pray that those ladies who have graduated will be much used in their village churches and that the men will hear the call of God to the work of the ministry.

Rev. Wesley Graham says, "During our stay we had the privilege of opening two new church buildings in remote areas. Although travelling to these openings can be quite a challenge physically, yet when you hear the singing of the people and see their desire to hear the Word of God it makes the effort well worthwhile."

The new orphanage building is nearing completion and it is hoped that in a couple of months it will be ready to accommodate the sixty children for which it is being constructed. At present there are thirty children in the home. Pray for wisdom that the right children will be chosen to come into the home.

Sarita, the young woman who has begun studying at medical school, has settled in well and in some of her examinations has gained very high marks, coming first in her year group in one of her subjects. She has asked the Grahams to convey her thanks to those who have prayed for her. Please continue to pray for Sarita, that she will know the Lord's help and provision for her fees as she continues her studies.

◆ South Korea

Seoul—Seongkyu & Sooyoun Lee

Rev. Seongkyu Lee reports that the Free Presbyterian Church in Korea is doing well by the grace of God. During May he visited all of the church members and had the opportunity to hear of their personal situations and to help them spiritually. One of the topics

he discussed with them was the importance of family devotions. Family devotions has not been a settled habit among Christians in Korea, and Mr. Lee sees this as an important thing for the church to promote. The biggest reason it is so difficult to be faithful with family devotions in Korea is because of their busy schedules. The parents and teen children barely have a chance to see each other. Such busyness is resulting in spiritual weakness in their lives. Please pray for spiritual maturity in the congregation.

The Korean church is thankful that a new president has been elected in Korea. Although the former president was impeached, the peaceful election of the new president has brought political stability. Mr. Lee says the impeachment business revealed the political weakness of Korean society and also the conflicts between social classes, all of it underscoring how greatly the gospel is needed in Korea. He adds that the secular society is becoming a threat to young Christians in Korea. There is very little interest in anything spiritual and secular Christians are increasing everywhere. They are praying for the salvation of the young people in the church. Please pray that in spite of peer pressure, excessive academic work, and the secular culture, the young people, rather than drifting away, will live with a clear assurance of their faith.

AFRICA

◆ Liberia

Monrovia—David DiCanio

Rev. David DiCanio reports that the Liberia Telecommunications Authority, the government agency that grants radio frequencies, has allowed the FP Mission Church of Liberia to continue broadcasting on 92.5 FM because they have not received any complaints about the station creating interference. They said they will put a team together to do their own test, and then, if all is okay, they will grant the FPMCOL the license for the frequency. The mission church already has a permit for the station from the Ministry of Information.

The radio station is now running from 5:15 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. A large banner outside the bookstore and decals on each mission vehicle advertize the new station. Because of concern that newcomers who see the banner advertisements would assume the station was unavailable in their area if it were off air for six hours in the afternoon, it was decided to broadcast for the full day, which is an extra six hours above the normal daily use of the

compound's generator. The diesel fuel needed to run the generator for the extra hours will cost the mission work about an additional \$600 USD per month.

Mr. DiCanio says they have raised and spent just over \$21,000 USD for the station to this point. They hope to purchase a new 1500-watt transmitter from a company recommended by Randy Cornelius, a Bob Jones University graduate who is the director of Harbour Light of the Windwards in Grenada. The company is offering the mission a significant discount because it wishes to break into the African market. The transmitter would be \$5,760 USD below the list price of \$8,400 USD. Shipping would be \$550. The offer is good for three months. The used transmitter has had a few problems so far, but has been working well for the past two weeks. It would act as a backup if they get a new one.

They hear that people are listening to the station and pray that more will listen. Mr. DiCanio was encouraged that ELWA, the large Christian station in Liberia that broadcasts *Let the Bible Speak* every day, has permitted them to advertize the new station at the conclusion of the LTBS program. Mr. DiCanio believes that that has been the biggest influence in people's coming over to listen to the new station.

Please pray that the Lord will help folks who are not used to hearing the truth set forth as plainly as it is being preached on the new station. He says it may be difficult for Christians to hear such direct preaching, especially about the sins of the day and the application being made to other churches that are not standing for God's Word.

Monrovia—Joanne Greer

Joanne Greer says they are gearing up for the summer children's activities in the Paynesville mission church. Twelve people from the Ballymena FPC church in Northern Ireland will be visiting July 14–28 to help out with the annual vacation Bible school scheduled for July 17–21. They will also be there for Liberia's Independence Day on July 26, when the missionaries always host a day of games and food for the children in the Paynesville community in an effort to keep them off the streets and away from the drinking and carousing that goes on during most holidays. Please pray for safe travels for the team and for God's blessing on His Word during the week of VBS.

Joanne says the new Land Cruiser, which arrived at the mission compound on April 18, is a joy to drive, and that she and Rev. David DiCanio are very thankful for those

who supported this vehicle project. She says, "I've had a couple of opportunities already to try out the 4-wheel drive feature in mud and sand but thankfully have not needed to use the winch yet!" Do keep praying for the second vehicle to be funded. The pickup is off the road at the minute with a broken drive shaft. The company that was supposed to be finishing the repairs on the Rav 4 suddenly closed down and left the country, so while it is currently drivable, the missionaries are not sure whether they will be able to get it completely repaired in order to sell it, which was the original plan.

They are rejoicing in God's continual provision for the radio station, especially since they received a favorable response from the Liberia Telecommunications Authority after testing the frequency for a few weeks. Please pray that funds would continue to come in to pay for the extra generator fuel so that they can broadcast eighteen hours a day instead of just the twelve hours that the generator is usually running. Joanne was encouraged a couple of weeks ago when two of the Sunday school children asked her to come to their house and help them find the station on their dad's radio. The community in which these boys live is full of alcoholism, immorality, and other wickedness, and it is thrilling to think that God's Word is now being heard at least in that one house and perhaps is being overheard by neighbors as well.

◆ Uganda

Nsaalu—Noreen McAfee

Noreen thanks God for His grace and mercy as she finished up in Kenya and travelled across to the Emmanuel Christian School in Nsaalu, Uganda. She arrived just in time for the end-of-term examinations and the arrival of ten visitors from Northern Ireland who had come for the official opening of the Free Presbyterian mission station at Nsaalu.

Noreen says it was a joy to see the church building packed for the special occasion. She asks us to pray that God would move in a mighty way in the area, where most families are either Muslim or Roman Catholic.

She says the children and young people at the school really enjoyed interacting with the visitors and are still talking about and drawing pictures of their experiences.

Noreen also thanks God for specific answers to prayer in recent weeks. Applications for special passes were approved for both the Millers and her as they await their Ugandan work permits. Another legal requirement was fulfilled when the mission was granted for-

eign NGO status. A hydro-geological survey was carried out at the school and, on the basis of the report, they plan to commence drilling a borehole on June 12. Noreen asks us to pray that this operation will be successful and that it will provide a reliable source of water for the mission station.

Noreen has been greatly encouraged by the prayerful interest and support of God's people for this relatively new work. She asks us to pray on without ceasing for God's blessing to be upon both the church and the school and for souls to be saved.

◆ Kenya

Kapenguria—Margaret Russell

Life for Margaret over the last couple of months has revolved around the Christian Academy. Noreen McAfee's relocation to Uganda has brought with it added responsibility and a significant challenge for Margaret. This transitional period has not been without its difficulties, but Margaret has known God's grace through it all. At the moment the school has advertized the position of school principal and in the incoming month will be seeking to interview applicants. Margaret asks for prayer that God's will be done and that He will supply the great need at this time. She also requests that God will give her continued good health and strength.

A real encouragement in the school is the response in the primary section. Students continued to be enrolled even in the second term of the year, forcing the school to employ another teacher to assist in some of the classes that are too full! Margaret is thankful for the continued financial support from the FPC Mission Board to the school as without it they could not have paid their bills to date. She asks us to pray that over the summer months God's people on the home front will continue to remember the academy in prayer and with their gifts. Margaret is still much focused on the great opportunity for the teaching of the truth of the gospel among such a wide range of age groups (kindergarten to high school) and also the need for God to raise up other laborers to stand in the gap. She asks us to pray much to this end.

At the end of April Margaret enjoyed having a delegation from the Ulster Mission Board led by its chairman, Rev. Ian Harris. She was able to accompany them to Kisii, where they had a two-day conference with a group of Christians from that area. They were also able to visit the academy in Kapenguria and preach on the Lord's Day in some of the BCFC churches.

Even though some parts of Kenya have had some rain, the effects of the long period of drought and famine in the east and north of the country are being felt countrywide with scarcity and increased prices of food. Some basic food commodities have risen as much as 40 percent. The government is importing grain to deal with the acute food shortage. This has had wide-ranging effects on the everyday life of the Kenyan people. As a result, there has been a reduction in business in the bookshops, in the payment of school fees, and also in the giving of the God's people. Margaret says that in their area, which is known as the food basket of the country, the crops generally are doing well and it is hoped that with continued rainfall there will be a reasonable harvest. However, because of poor stock of the grain within the country, it may not be enough to relieve the situation.

Great uncertainty is being experienced in Kenya as the country goes to the polls on August 8. Even in the preliminary nominations there have been violent clashes when some people have lost their lives. Margaret asks us to pray much that peace will prevail during and after the elections and that no further loss of life will be experienced. Al Shabaab activity over the past weeks seems to have been revived on the Kenyan/Somali border, where several of the security forces have lost their lives while on patrol. Please continue to pray much.

Kakamega—Kathy Walker

Beulah Christian Literature sponsored its first pastors' training seminar May 2–4, 2017. Kathy rejoices in the Lord's blessing upon every aspect of the conference. Forty men gathered from Kenya and Uganda under the preaching ministry of Dr. John McKnight, Rev. David McMillan, and Rev. Ian Kenney. Mr. Paul Haffey assisted with registration, allowing Kathy to attend to some other needs. Men from Dr. McKnight's group, the Evangelical Methodist Church of Kenya, joined with a number of pastors from Bible Christian Faith Church, a few from the new FP Mission in Uganda, and some local Kakamega pastors. Dr. McKnight spoke from 1 Timothy regarding pastoral life and ministry; Mr. McMillan spoke from the book of Jonah and also presented the life and work of Martin Luther in special remembrance of the 500-year anniversary of the Reformation; Rev. Ian Kenney spoke on the inspiration of Scripture. Kathy thanks the Lord for two very able translators—Mr. Stephen Macharia (Kitale) and Mr. Patrice Makali (Nairobi)—and also for

the donation of a sound system from a local church which was extremely helpful during some noisy rain storms! Many of the men who attended expressed their appreciation for the sound teaching and have requested more such conferences in the near future. The Lord provided a very good venue for the conference very close to the bookshop and undertook for all the arrangements, bringing help just when it was needed. Please pray that the Word will continue to speak in hearts and that this would indeed be the beginning of a much-needed ministry in East Africa. Thank you for praying for the conference.

Kathy says it was also a blessing to fellowship with the rest of the visiting group from Ulster: Rev. Ian Harris, Rev. John Gray, and Mr. and Mrs. Barry Stewart, who joined Margaret Russell for a visit to Kisii to minister to a group of the Lord's people there. They then went on to Kitale and Kapenguria for ministry in the churches and a visit to the BCFC Christian Academy.

They are now waiting on a shipment of Bibles and books from Ulster. Pray that they will arrive quickly and safely. Kathy says it will be good to have the new materials because their regular customers are now looking for "what's new." Kathy was encouraged recently when a young man came into the shop for the first time and requested books by John Owen.

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See the FPCNA Mission Board website at www.fpcnamissions.org for more news, prayer requests, and pictures. For more information about missionaries serving under the Ulster Mission Board see www.fpcmission.org.